

Human Resources

The PRC program has been plagued with another year of staff turnover. The program began FY 2001 with an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS), a Public Participation Coordinator (PPC), a clerical, and two vacancies. A Planner joined the program in November 2000, but left for a position on Maui after only 5 months. The EHS who had been the lead in the program since the Program Coordinator left in June 2000, decided to pursue a medical degree, and hence left the program at the end of the calendar year. In February 2001 an emergency hire EHS was hired for 2 months, and then replaced by a permanent EHS in June 2001. The permanent EHS has been quick to learn the program and take on numerous tasks. She has visited most of the project sites and has been able to work with the contractors to ensure their scope of work and project objectives are met. The Grants Management Specialist (GMS) position was filled for the first time in the program in April 2001. The



PRC staff in Pelekane Bay watershed, Hawaii, for a current 319(h) project visit.



PRC staff, (from left to right), Jessica Pepler, Maddie Ledda, Colin Tanaka, Susan Kubo, and Lawana Collier.

May 2001, a Civil Engineer from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) began a one-year assignment in the program under an Inter-agency Personnel Agreement (IPA). The IPA was requested to assist in clearing the backlog of contracts, especially for Unified Watershed Assessment projects. The IPA provides the program with a wealth



PRC staff and EPA Project Officer, Audrey Shileikis, in Waimanalo for a site visit to one of the program's current 319(h) projects.

of knowledge and expertise of best management practices, resource conservation in Hawaii, and industry contacts. As of September 2001, the Planner position remains vacant and the State continues the recruitment process to fill the position as soon as possible. The PPC that was with the program at the beginning of FY2001, is thankfully still here. This PPC has taken

on the responsibility of becoming the program's lead. Her experience and vast knowledge has greatly helped to keep the program's momentum moving forward.

The current staff has overcome many of the contract lags and been more efficient in visiting project sites and managing all project contracts. The program is evolving through the skills and abilities of the new EHS, GMS and IPA. The program will be even more successful with the addition of a permanent Planner. In looking down the road it is evident that with the development of an enforceable policy for polluted runoff, the program will change and require additional staff.